

Remarks/Arguments

In the April 23, 2007 office action, the drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The Examiner asserted that the drawings do not show lip 35 touching the reel type mower, or lower panel 33 extending over the roller. Claims 18-19 and 21-23 were rejected under section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ehn, Jr. et al (US Patent 4,924,663) in view of Skilliter, Jr. (US 4,239,278).

In response to the objection to the drawings, claim 18 is amended to delete the limitation that lower lip 35 touches the reel type mower, and replacing it with a limitation that the lower lip faces the reel type mower. This is shown in Fig 1.

In response to the objection to the drawings, the Examiner's attention also is directed to Fig. 2. Fig. 2 shows lower panel 33 extending over roller 16. Fig. 2 also shows reinforcing member 40 on the opposite side of the roller. Because Fig. 2 shows every feature of the invention specified in the claims, namely that the lower panel extends over the roller, it satisfies the requirements of 37 CFR 1.83(a).

Claim 18 also is amended to specify the reinforcing rod is inserted through an access hole in the grass catcher, and the retaining structures hold the reinforcing rod in place by a press fit. Claim 18 is patentable over Ehn, Jr. et al and Skilliter, Jr. Ehn, Jr. et al relates to a grass catcher, but lacks a reinforcing rod gripped by a plurality of retaining structures integrally molded into the lower lip.

Skilliter, Jr. does not relate to a molded plastic grass catcher, but relates to a vehicle sun visor. Skilliter, Jr.'s rod 13 is not inserted through an access hole. Instead, Skilliter, Jr.'s rod 13 is "encapsulated across the entire edge of the visor." See column 2, lines 13-14. Skilliter, Jr.'s bosses 12 are not a plurality of retaining structures that hold rod 13 in place by a press fit. Instead, Skilliter, Jr. has a single structure molded to encapsulate the rod.

Claim 19 is patentable over Ehn, Jr. et al and Skilliter, Jr. for the same reasons as claim 18 on which it depends. Additionally, Ehn, Jr. et al and Skilliter, Jr. fail to disclose integral retaining structures having substantially the same thickness as the walls. Ehn, Jr. et al lacks any integral retaining structures. Skilliter, Jr.'s bosses 12 are thicker than panel 10 or bead 11.

Claims 21 and 22 are patentable over Ehn, Jr. et al and Skilliter, Jr. for at least the same reasons as claim 18 on which they depend.

Claim 23 is patentable over Ehn, Jr. et al and Skilliter, Jr. for at least the same

reasons as claim 18 on which it depends, and because the cited references fail to disclose a contoured bottom surface portion dimensioned to fit over the roller without interfering with roller movement. Ehn, Jr. et al's Fig. 5 shows bottom 34 and front lip or shelf portion 37 with ribs 41 for strength reinforcement, but fails to show a contoured bottom portion dimensioned to fit over a roller without interfering with roller movement. Skilliter, Jr. relates to a sun visor for a vehicle, and is not contoured.

In conclusion, it is believed that claims 18-19 and 21-23 are in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested.

Any fees or charges due as a result of filing of the present paper may be charged against Deposit Account 04-0525.

Respectfully,

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